

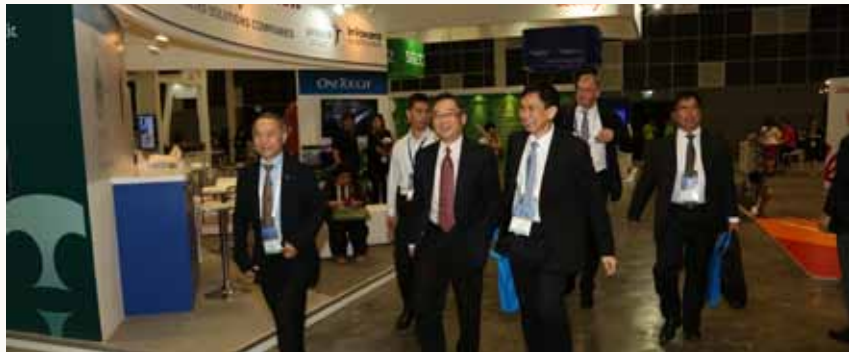
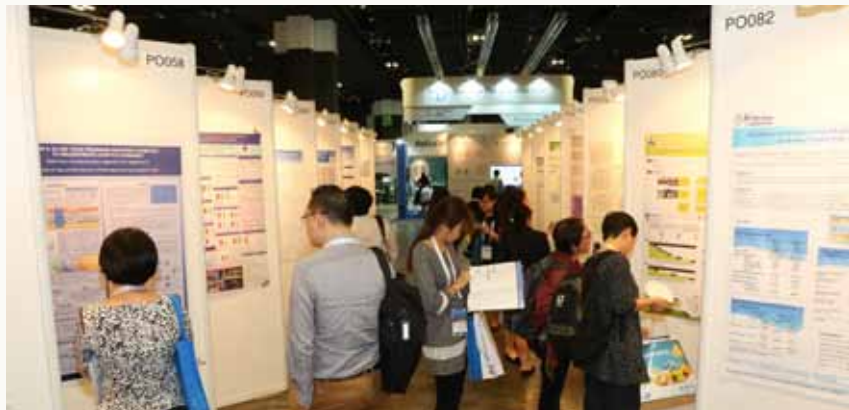
10th International Diabetes Federation-Western Pacific Region Congress & 6th Asian Association for the Study of Diabetes Scientific Meeting

DSS hosted the 10th International Diabetes Federation-Western Pacific Region (IDF-WPR) Congress and 6th Asian Association for the Study of Diabetes Scientific Meeting from 21 to 24 November 2014.

Held at Suntec Singapore, the IDF-WPR Congress brought together 28 diabetes-related societies and associations in the Asia-Pacific and featured close to 100 speakers from over 20 countries who spoke at 90 plenary and symposia lectures and pre-congress workshops.

Attended by over 3,000 delegates from countries within and beyond the IDF Western Pacific Region, the Congress accorded the exchange of ideas to forge future collaborations in tackling the diabetes epidemic.

Guest of Honour Minister for Health Singapore, Mr Gan Kim Yong, in his welcoming speech, agreed that diabetes is a major global health problem and also a major cause of disease burden in Singapore. He lauded the Society's work in enhancing diabetes awareness and improving diabetes care in Singapore and acknowledged the efforts of healthcare professionals and caregivers. He thanked all present for their commitment in tackling diabetes. DSS, in turn, would like to express its deep appreciation to the organising and scientific committees, sponsors, speakers and all parties involved for making this successful event possible.



EXCERPTS OF SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MR GAN KIM YONG, AT THE LAUNCH CEREMONY OF THE 10TH IDF-WPR CONGRESS, 22 NOV 2014

Biomedical Research

With our ageing population, we have increasingly focused on research and management of common chronic diseases, which pose the greatest disease burden, such as diabetes.

For example, Associate Professor Tai E Shyong, who recently won the Clinician Scientist Award from the National Medical Research Council (NMRC), is currently heading a research project to study and compare the molecular pathways leading to insulin resistance in different ethnic groups.

These findings could result in new drugs which will treat type 2 Diabetes more effectively by targeting the specific pathways to reduce insulin resistance, lower blood glucose and improve blood lipids.

Disease Burden of Diabetes

Diabetes is a major global health problem. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are 347 million people worldwide who have diabetes and diabetes is projected to become the seventh leading cause of death globally by the year 2030[1]. Diabetes is also a major cause of disease burden in Singapore.

According to the National Health Survey 2010[2], one in nine, or about 11% of Singaporeans aged between 18 and 69, has diabetes. One in seven, or 14.4%, has impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) which, as you will be aware, can progress to diabetes if lifestyle changes are not made. Undiagnosed diabetes is also a significant issue, just like the rest of the world. About one in two Singaporeans with diabetes is unaware of the condition.

DSS and The Extra Mile

I would like to specially commend the Diabetic Society of Singapore for its good work since its inception in 1971. Besides helping diabetic patients manage their condition through programmes, activities and workshops, the Society provides an avenue for these patients and their loved ones to share their experiences on dealing with the disease and provide support to those who are newly diagnosed.

The Society has also gone the extra mile to raise awareness of diabetes among the general public through health screenings, public forums, and outreach talks at schools and community clubs.

[1] WHO media centre diabetes factsheet: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs312/en/>

[2] MOH National Health Survey 2010: http://www.moh.gov.sg/content/dam/moh_web/Publications/Reports/2011/NHS2010%20-%20low%20res.pdf